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Middlebury, Vt.--The Hon. Malcolm Fraser, former Australian prime minister and co-chairman of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, which recently called for international sanctions against South Africa, will lead a nationally broadcast forum on South African issues at Middlebury College, October 8.

The forum, "South Africa: A National Collegiate Symposium," will focus on the institutional and governmental response to the recent developments in South Africa. The presentation, which will be carried over the stations of the American Public Radio network, will include other leading figures representing various viewpoints in the discussion regarding response to South African developments. The forum will be part of a day-long series of discussions, lectures and classroom exchanges regarding South Africa.

The invitation to Mr. Fraser came in a meeting this summer in Los Angeles with College President Olin Robison. This will be the first presentation by the respected world leader on South Africa before a college audience in the United States.

Representatives of other colleges will be invited to participate in the exchange which will take place in Mead

Chapel on the Middlebury College campus. Telephone lines will also allow for national discussion and participation with scholars and other leaders in the debate regarding sanctions and divestment. The two-hour broadcast will include a one-hour discussion among the invited guests and a one hour exchange with members of the audience, both present on campus and over phone lines.

The 56-year-old Fraser served as a member of the Australian Parliament for more than 25 years and was prime minister from 1975 to 1983. A member of the Liberal Party, Mr. Fraser was asked by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to join with Nigerian former head of state Olusegun Obasanjo to chair a group of distinguished commonwealth leaders last fall to "initiate, in the context of a suspension of violence on all sides, a process of dialogue across the lines of color, politics and religion, with a view to establishing a non-racial and representative government." The six-month effort to promote a peaceful settlement of South Africa's conflict came to an abrupt halt when South Africa conducted raids in May into neighboring Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The subsequent report by the Eminent Persons Group called for sanctions as the only peaceful way to bring about change in South Africa.

The Middlebury College forum is part of a continuing discussion of South African issues on the campus which has been going on for almost a decade. As part of the decision this past summer to divest the College's holdings in firms doing business in South Africa, the College's board of

trustees endorsed the educational initiatives at the College and called for a continuation of such discussions.

"The decision to divest cannot be made and then dropped," College president Olin Robison told faculty at the opening of the academic year on Tuesday, Sept. 2. "The visits by Malcolm Fraser and others representing various viewpoints on the South Africa are planned this year as part of a continuing examination of the complex issues that are part of this upsetting story."

This past summer the College sent its own representative, Professor John Spencer, an African specialist in the history department, as part of a delegation to visit a number of South African universities. He will report to the college community on Tuesday evening, Sept. 9 in an address at 8 p.m. in Wright Theatre on the campus.

In addition, three non-white South African students will be attending South African universities as Middlebury scholars this fall. Scholarships have been provided by funds raised by Middlebury students and faculty and matched on a 2-to-1 basis by the College's Board of Trustees.